

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07  
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00  
SAJ-01 EB-08 COME-00 /068 W  
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FM USMISSION NATO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1410  
SECDEF WASHDC

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SECDEF FOR OASD(ISA) AND DDR&.

EO11652 N/A  
TAGS OCON MILI NATO  
SUBJECT POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR JOINT US/FRG STUDY ON  
CONVENTIONAL STANDOFF WEAPONS

1. DEPDEFAD MET RECENTLY AT THEIR REQUEST WITH MARKETING REPRESENTATIVES OF MCDONNELL DOUGLAS (MCDAC) TO DISCUSS NATO STANDARDIZATION PROGRAMS AND COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS GENERALLY. DURING THE DISCUSSIONS, MCDAC REPRESENTATIVES TOLD DEPDEFAD THAT THE GERMAN FIRM, MESSERSCHMITT-BOLKOW-BLOHM (MBB), AND MCDAC INDEPENDENTLY CONDUCTED STUDIES ON AN AIR-TO-GROUND CONVENTIONAL STANDOFF WEAPON. WE UNDERSTAND THAT UNCLASSIFIED DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COMPANIES REVEALED THAT THE STUDIES ARE PROCEEDING IN PARALLEL AND CONVERGING ON A WEAPONS SYSTEM WITH THE SAME BASIC CHARACTERISTICS.

2. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT HAVE THE DETAILS OF THE STUDIES, IF THE TWO ARE, IN FACT, PARALLEL AND EXAMINING THE SAME BASIC CONCEPTS, WE BELIEVE, IN THE INTERESTS OF NATO STANDARDIZATION, THERE IS A POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR A JOINT VENTURE. MCDAC REPRESENTATIVES SAID MOD BONN HAS  
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GIVEN MBB AUTHORIZATION TO PARTICIPATE IN CLASSIFIED CONVERSATIONS WITH MCDAC IF, REPEAT IF, MCDAC CAN OBTAIN THE SAME AUTHORIZATION FROM THE US GOVERNMENT.

3. IN LINE WITH US POLICY TO MAXIMIZE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STANDARDIZATION WITH OUR NATO ALLIES, WE BELIEVE THAT THE US MAY WANT TO SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY AND EXPLORE FURTHER THE EFFORTS OF BOTH MCDAC AND MBB BY AUTHORIZING SOME PRELIMINARY CLASSIFIED EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE COMPANIES. STRAUSS-HUPE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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